

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CHRISTOPHER RONEY,

Petitioner,

v.

JOHN E. WETZEL, Secretary, Pennsylvania
Department of Corrections; JAMIE
SORBER, Superintendent of the State
Correctional Institution at PHOENIX; and
MARK GARMAN, Superintendent of the
State Correctional Institution at Rockview,

Respondents.

CIVIL ACTION

No. 2:14-cv-02083

THIS IS A CAPITAL CASE

HON. GENE E.K. PRATTER

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to this Court's May 3, 2024 Order (Doc. 151) the parties present this Joint Status Report.

1. On August 15, 2023, this Court ordered Petitioner's capital habeas corpus proceedings stayed and held in abeyance pending the exhaustion of claims filed in successive Post-conviction Relief Act petitions in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas as a result of continuing Commonwealth disclosures relevant to Petitioner's claims that the trial prosecutor discriminated on the basis of race and gender during jury selection, in violation of *Batson v. Kentucky*, 476 U.S. 79 (1986), and *J.E.B. v. Alabama*, 511 U.S. 127 (1994), and that his right to due process and a fair

trial was violated by the overwhelming police presence in the courtroom during the trial. This matter was thereby placed in suspense pending further order of this Court. [Doc. 148].

2. On August 29, 2023, the Commonwealth made additional disclosures to Petitioner that are unrelated to the claims presently before the PCRA court and which may provide the basis for Petitioner to raise additional claims that have previously been unavailable to him. Accordingly, on September 1, 2023 Petitioner moved, unopposed, for permission to file a consolidated amended PCRA petition, and if appropriate, to include additional claims based on the new disclosures.

3. The unopposed motion was granted and Petitioner is currently conducting investigation and research related to the materials most recently disclosed to him. The PCRA matter is currently scheduled for a status hearing before the Honorable Scott DiClaudio on May 23, 2024.

Jointly submitted,

/s/ Michael Gonzales

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May 10, 2024